

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4504

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR
SUBJ: LENIN ANNIVERSARY

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS EXAMINED LENIN BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION APRIL 20 FOR CLUES ABOUT NEXT WEEK'S ANTICIPATED
CC PLENUM. PLACEMENT OF POLITBURO ON PODIUM UNDERLINES
VULNERABILITY OFSHELEST, SHELEPIN, VORONOV AND POLYANSKY.
SPEECH BY USTINOV EMPHASIZED TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND ECONOMIC
REFORM AT HOME AND SUCCESSES OF "PEACE OFFENSIVE" ABROAD, WITH
SPECIAL ATTENTION TO U. S.- SOVIET RELATIONS. HE USED BREZHNEV
DOCTRINE LANGUAGE IN REPLYING TO PEKING CHARGES OF SOVIET THREAT;
HIS ASSERTION THAT PEKING HAS ABANDONED PROLETARIAN
INTERNATIONALISM
AND IS COLLABORATING WITH ENEMIES OF COMMUNISM PROMPTED CHINESE
WALKOUT. END SUMMARY.

2. GREATER PART OF SPEECH BY CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER
USTINOV WAS DEVOTED TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS, PRIMARILY ECONOMICS.
ASIDE FROM QUOTING DATA ON ECONOMIC SUCCESSES AND BRIEFLY
NOTING SHORTCOMINGS, USTINOV DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION
TO THE THEME OF PROMOTING THE NEW. SCIENTIFIC- TECHNOLOGICAL
PROGRESS IN THE "MAIN" THING, THE "KEY PROBLEM." LENIN CALLED
FOR A "REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH" TO IT. THE RECENTLY ADOPTED
MEASURES FOR IMPROVING INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT, AND CURRENT
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" MODERNIZATION OF THE MECHANISM OF ECONOMIC REFORM" WERE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED.

3. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, USTINOV TALKED UP THE SUCCESSES OF THE " PEACE OFFENSIVE" AND ALSO SLIPPED IN ARGUMENT IN IDEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION WHICH LINKS IT TO THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY: THE MOST RELIABLE BASIS FOR A " CLASS" FOREIGN POLICY AND STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IS CREATED BY ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUILDING A NEW SOCIETY. HE MADE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. MAY 1972 SUMMIT WAS A " TURNING POINT" IN U. S.- SOVIET RELATIONS. HE QUOTED BREZHNEV ON POSSIBILITY OF NEW SIGNIFICANT STEPS IF BOTH COUNTRIES PROCEED ALONG PATH CHARTED AT SUMMIT, AND VOICED OPTIMISM ABOUT DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS IF BASED ON " REALISM" AND PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL SECURITY. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE MUST BE BASED ON EQUALITY, NON- DISCRIMINATION AND NON- INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SUITABLY MILITANT LANGUAGE OF SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM MENTIONED INABILITY OF " LARGEST IMPERIALIST POWER" TO ACHIEVE VICTORY DESPITE EXPENDITURE OF LIVES AND 150 BILLION DOLLARS, BUT THIS PORTION OF SPEECH WAS NOTABLE FOR FAILURE TO MENTION THE U. S. BY NAME. ONLY REFERENCE TO CURRENT INDOCHINA SITUATION WAS COMMENT THAT NOT ALL OBSTACLES TO POLITICAL SETTLEMENT ARE YET SURMOUNTED. MIDDLE EAST WAS DEALT WITH IN ONE SENTENCE, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO U. S.

B. REMARKS ON CHINA WERE PREFACED BY ASSURANCE THAT SOVIET ARMED FORCES WERE IN HIGH STATE OF PREPAREDNESS. ATTEMPTING TO REBUT " IMPERIALIST AND PEKING PROPAGANDA" CONCERNING MYTHICAL SOVIET MILITARY THREAT (HE DID NOT SAY WHO WAS THREATENED), HE ECHOED LANGUAGE OF BREZHNEV DOCTRINE: " SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH EXISTS ONLY FOR DEFENSE OF SOCIALISM, FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF PEOPLES, FOR DEFENSE OF NOBLE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY AND PEACE." HE WENT ON TO CHARGE CHINESE WITH ABANDONING PRINCIPLES OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AND DE FACTO COLLABORATION WITH ENEMIES OF COMMUNISM. REITERATING STANDARD SOVIET LINE, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CHINA WOULD EVENTUALLY RETURN TO FOLD OF " FRATERNAL COUNTRIES" STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST IMPERIALISM. USTINOV' TREATMENT OF CHINA PROMPTED WALKOUT BY CHINESE CHARGE.

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C. RELATIONS WITH FRG (AND SELECTED OTHER COUNTRIES) WERE BARELY MENTIONED , NOTWITHSTANDING BREZHNEV' S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BONN PASSAGE ON EUROPE EMPHASIZED THAT OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE INVIOABILITY OF EXISTING BORDERS IS NOW CONFIRMED.

3. SEATING ON THE PODIUM EMPHASIZED THE APPARENTLY PRECARIOUS POSITION OF THE " OUTER FOUR" IN THE PRESIDUM: SHELEST AND VORONOV WERE SEATED ON ONE FLANK, AND POLYANSKY AND SHELEPIN ON THE OTHER. THIS IS NOT NEW FOR VORONOV AND SHELEST, BUT IT REPRESENTS A DOWNGRADING OF POLYANSKY AND SHELEPIN. TELEVISION CAMERAS PERVERSELY (AND PRESUMABLY INTENTIONALLY) ELIMINATED SHELEST AND SHELEPIN EACH TIME THEY PANNED THE PODIUM CLOSE- UP. BREZHNEV SEEMED SOMEWHAT PREOCCUPIED, AND MADE LESS EFFORT THAN USUAL TO PLAY UP TO THE AUDIENCE AND AT ONE POINT APPEARED IMPATIENTLY TO CUT OFF SERIOUS CONVERSATION WITH PODGORNII.

4. VIDEOTAPE BEING POUCHED TO USIA/ IEE.
DUBS

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